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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 20 | Humidity 75% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 84,928 | Nifty 25,939 | Gold 74,300 | Silver 89,650 | Dollar 83.55 | Euro 93.01 | GBP 111.36

LAYERS OF ONION

As prices soar, 112 mobile vans will hit the road to sell onions at ₹35/kg at different locations in city by next week

PAGE 2

BOX OF TROUBLE

Experts suggest ways to avoid courier scam as network of criminals posing as employees of international companies busted

PAGE 3

Poor House Maternity Hospital in Shivaji Nagar that was a lifeline to many low-income families was shut down three years ago for renovation. And now, there seems to be no hope for it to reopen any time soon

SYMBOL OF LIFE IS NOW GRIM SIGN OF NEGLECT

Latest plan is to completely rebuild it, which may take couple of years more

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It has been three years since the Poor House Maternity Hospital at Thimmaya Road in Shivaji Nagar has been shuttered. With the area's lower-income residents struggling to access affordable maternity care, the All India Mahila Samskruthik Sanghathan (AIMSS) Karnataka State Committee has demanded the reopening of this 70-year-old institution.

The Poor House Maternity Hospital, built in 1957, was a lifeline for the economically disadvantaged, particularly for women in need of affordable maternity care. The hospital has served as a crucial facility for pregnant women, children, and elderly patients in the surrounding neighbourhoods for decades. However, for the past three years, the hospital has been shut in the name of 'renovation' leaving thousands of families in the lurch.

Shanta A, Bengaluru District Secretary of AIMSS, expressed her frustration over the situation during a recent interaction with BBMP Special Commissioner for Health and Sanitation, Suralkar Vikas Kishore. During the meeting with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

KAUSHIK JN

> **"Common people here are not in a position to pay lakhs of rupees and go to a private hospital for emergency treatment. The nearby Bowring Hospital has also cleared out maternity facilities for various reasons. So they have to go to distant hospitals or take a loan and go to a private hospital**
>
> — Shanta A, AIMSS

Foam has come home

Arkavathi River pollution will hit B'luru hard as TG Halli reservoir is soon to start supplying drinking water to 110 villages here

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Appearance of foam in Arkavathi River stretch near Thippagondanahalli (TG Halli) reservoir on Sunday has yet again put the spotlight on Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) that has been accused of failure to enforce environmental laws and contain any form of pollution.

Environmentalists say frothing of the river raises an alarm bell especially when the TG Halli reservoir that draws water from Arkavathi will soon start supplying drinking water to 110 villages in the western part of Bengaluru.

According to water quality experts, one of the primary causes of river frothing is the discharge of untreated industrial effluent into water bodies.

"Frothing has happened due to an overload of industrial and domestic sewage in the river. I have been working on the river stretch for nearly 20 years and frothing has been a regular occurrence for the last 10-12 years. This shows a complete failure of the state pollution control board in performing its basic duty of prevention, control, and abatement of any form of pollution," said S Vishwanath, a city-based water expert.

While the river is receiving industrial effluent from the Peenya Industrial area,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Insightful watch

Watch Maxim Gorky's timeless masterpiece "The Lower Depths" through Ruchika Theatre Group's performance. This powerful play, set in a night shelter before the Russian Revolution, delves into themes of poverty, despair, and the indomitable human spirit. Directed by Feisal Alkazi, The Lower Depths promises to be a stirring portrayal of the struggles and hopes of society's most downtrodden. Alkazi's keen directorial vision, paired with Gorky's insightful writing, will offer audiences a profound reflection on social injustice.
Where: Ranga Shankara
When: September 27, 7:30 pm

02 Poetry recitation

Spend a lovely evening listening to Vardhan Patil as he recites his carefully penned words at "Tuesdays with the Bard @ Urban Solace." Vardhan is an engineering student. His connection with stories and poetry came alive in his world through the bedtime stories. From an early age, he has been writing poems, shayaris, nazms in English, Hindi, and Marathi and is actively involved in several literary activities in college and across the city.

Where: Urban Solace
When: September 24, 7:30 pm to 9 pm

Shed no more tears while buying onions

Recently, onion prices have been soaring in city; to ensure affordability, onions are being sold at subsidised rate of Rs 35/kg in B'luru from Monday onwards

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While the onion rates are soaring in markets in the city, the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited's (NCCF) Bengaluru Branch, working under the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, is undertaking the sale of onions under the price stabilisation fund (PSF) at a subsidised rate. They made arrangements to sell onions at Rs 35 per kg through mobile vans at different locations in the city on Monday, such as Basaveshwara Nagar, Sunkadakatte, Nagarabhavi, Rajajinagar, and Mahalakshmi Layout.

With the failure of the onion crop in Maharashtra, onion prices have been rising in Bengaluru for the last one month, thus increasing pressure on homemakers' monthly budget. Onions are now priced at Rs 40, Rs 60, or Rs 70 per kg, depending on their quality. The pricing is expected to go northward till the arrival of onions from Chitradurga.

Sale of onions at subsidised rates in Bengaluru

Under the scheme, onions purchased from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh will be sold in Bengaluru city from Monday onwards. This initiative will be extended to 28 assembly constituencies in the city.

Additionally, on Tuesday the sale will be in place at Basaveshwara Nagar Gayatri Temple, Nandini Layout bus stand, Sunkadakatte Wild Craft, Nagarbavi Annpoorneshwari Nagar, Rajaji Nagar Ram Mandir, Govindaraja Nagar Patteghar Palya, Laggeri Chowdeshwari Nagar, Mahalakshmi Layout, Ganapathi Layout, Malleshwaram Vegetables Market, Chamarajpet Uma Theatre, Yeshwanthpur LIC Colony, Vasanth Nagar NCCF Office, Nagarbhavi DMart, Peenya Second Stage bus stand, and Majestic Bus Stand.

This initiative was taken up to ensure that the public will get onions at an affordable rate following reports of a spike in the rate in the open market. Ravi Chandra, Branch Manager, NCCF, said that every assembly constituency has been allotted four mobile onion vans from the NCCF. A total of 112 mobile vans will be used to sell onions at subsidised prices. "Sale will continue till the onion rates return to normalcy. Today we used 15 vans to sell onions. The number of vans will be increased to 50 by Thursday and 112 by next week," he explained.

People queue up to buy onions sold at a subsidised rate at Nandini Layout in Bengaluru on Monday

> **"Sale will continue till onion rates return to normalcy. Today we used 15 vans to sell onions. Number of vans will be increased to 50 by Thursday & 112 by next week**
> – Ravi Chandra, Branch Manager, NCCF

Chandra said the NCCF had taken a similar initiative last year when onion prices were up. "We sold 10,000 metric tonnes of onions last year. The retail price of onions per kg was between Rs 70 and Rs 100 last year. Later, the prices of onions came down to Rs 20 during that time," he said.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) Onion Merchants' Association president BL Shankarappa said the failure of the onion crop in Maharashtra caused a shortage of onions. "The wholesale price of onions is around Rs 1,500 per 50 kg, but the retail price is between Rs 60 and Rs 70 per kg in the city. We have to wait for onion prices to come down till onions arrive from Chitradurga district," said Shankarappa.

Public reaction

Meanwhile, homemakers at Basaveshwara Nagar and other areas are elated regarding the availability of onions at subsidised prices. "I am very happy to get onions at Rs 35 per kg as against Rs 70 per kg in the market. The quality of onions is good. As of now, consumers are eligible to get only two kg of onions. It's my request that the NCCF staff members allow each consumer to buy three kg of onions instead of two kg," said Madhu, a homemaker from Basaveshwara Nagar.

Mural with a hearty message

Manipal Hospital initiated a creative and powerful awareness campaign for World Heart Day with a captivating 3D Mural Art project across the city. This unique artwork, which only reveals its full image when viewed from a distance, features a vibrant red heart, symbolising the fight against unhealthy habits like smoking, alcohol addiction, and obesity.

The heart-shaped mural is being created in association with BTP & BMRCL. They aim to ignite discussions on health and lifestyle choices, encouraging the public to reflect on personal habits they need to "unchain" from for overall well-being. This creative initiative is led by two renowned artists: Baadal Nanjundaswamy, known for his impactful spot art installations, and Mukesh Kumar, a 3D art specialist from Haryana. The murals will be displayed at over 20 key locations, such as Prestige Tech Parks to public spaces like Cubbon Park and Church Street.

Kalopsia 2024: Fusion of culture & tech

Presidency College is set to dazzle the city once again with Kalopsia 2024, its annual flagship fest, promising an unparalleled blend of imagination, innovation, and artistic brilliance on Tuesday at Presidency College and on September 27 from 9:30 am to 10 pm at Jayamahal Palace.

Themed "Where Illusions Become Reality," Kalopsia 2024 transforms the campus into a surreal wonderland where the extraordinary is the norm. It represents the college's commitment to holistic education, fostering a space where students' intellectual abilities meet their creative ambitions.

This year, the event takes attendees on an immersive journey through innovation, culture, and artistry, making it a must-attend for Bengaluru's cultural and academic circles. Whether you're a tech enthusiast, business visionary, art lover, or someone who simply loves a good party, Kalopsia 2024 has something for everyone. It's a day where technology, culture, and entertainment seamlessly blend, embodying the spirit of discovery and wonder.

'From tech, business, art, and music, Kalopsia '24 has something for everyone'

One can expect cutting-edge technology exhibitions and demonstrations showcasing the talent of young innovators, where futuristic concepts are brought to life in the most imaginative ways along with business and strategy events. Moreover, a diverse range of performances, from classical dance to street theatre, will highlight the richness of India's cultural heritage while embracing contemporary art forms. Debate, quizzing, and academic competitions will bring out the brightest minds, engaging in thought-provoking discussions and showcasing sharp intellectual skills.

Additionally, the rap sensation and youth icon KR$NA will headline the night with a live performance, bringing his energetic beats and powerful lyrics to the stage. The event will also host a DJ night and a fashion show, showcasing designs that evoke dreams, illusions, and futuristic visions. **–BMB**

Parcel turns pandora's box

Cops arrest 3 individuals who dealt in frauds masked behind 'courier, police officials identities' & seize Rs 11 lakh

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'The victims' are deceived by fake police officers who threaten arrests over alleged illegal parcels'

The South Division CEN Police recently uncovered a network of criminals posing as employees of international courier giants FedEx and DHL, luring victims into a web of deceit. The operation led to the arrest of three key players. The cops seized mobile phones used in the crime, an ATM card, and cash worth RS 11,75,000.

A resident under the Subramanyapura Police Station area received a call from a man claiming to be a DHL courier employee on June 24, 2024. The caller informed the victim about a package scheduled to arrive in Mumbai, allegedly containing passports, bank cards, and clothes, and banned drugs. Using the victim's fear to their advantage, the fraudsters scammed the victim of Rs 30 lakhs posing as police officials. Following a complaint by the victim's family on July 2, upon investigation, the police arrested two individuals at the Kaval Byrasandra bus stand in Govindpur, who were found with cash and incriminating evidence. By September 12, the team had captured another accomplice in Manjunath Nagar, whose confession revealed the names of other co-conspirators, including those residing abroad. On September 20, all three individuals were remanded to judicial custody.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Cyber Crime) Vijay Hadagali said, "We receive at least 10 cases daily related to FedEx scams. Do you really think the police would ask for money or request transfers? Absolutely not. I've spoken to many victims, and when I ask why they followed the scammers' instructions, they often say it felt like being hypnotised, acting out of fear. It's always best to respond by saying, If there's a complaint, I will come to the station to enquire about it."

Cyber game fraud in Mysuru

Similarly, another victim in Mysuru recently lost Rs 95 lakh in a cyber game fraud, with only Rs 19 lakh recovered so far. Like many others, this victim was deceived by fake police officers who threatened arrests over alleged illegal parcels. The victim described their ordeal as a nightmare. "I thought it was a scam, but when they mentioned the CBI, I got scared. When I said I wanted to talk to a lawyer, they asked me, "Are you serious?". That's when I fell into the trap," said the victim.

Word of caution

Chetan Anand, National Cyber Security Scholar and Cyber Crime Intervention Officer (CCIO), stated that FedEx will never request personal information via unsolicited calls, emails, and texts in exchange for goods in transit or in FedEx custody. Law enforcement officers/the police would never demand money to resolve an investigation or won't ask you to download apps or conduct investigations via video calls through platforms like Skype etc. "If you're not expecting any parcel delivery, there is no need to entertain the call. Once scammers receive the money, they vanish, along with the text messages they send. Major red flags include a sense of urgency, requests for personal information or links that are slightly misspelt, excessive use of capitalisation and exclamation points, claims that you have won a large sum of money in a lottery, and insecure websites. These may look very convincing, but they are not legitimate."

> **"If you're not expecting any parcel delivery, there is no need to entertain such calls** –Chetan Anand, National Cyber Security Scholar & Cyber Crime Intervention Officer

He further added, "Avoid such calls from unknown numbers and report the matter to the local police or the Government of India Cyber Crime Department (cybercrime.gov.in) or by dialling 1930. The public is encouraged to go through the learning corner available on the cybercrime reporting portal and equip themselves with the knowledge to prevent cybercrimes."

Ghee under lock and key

The recent ghee adulteration issue at Tirumala has sparked concern in Karnataka, shifting focus to not only the purity of ghee during production but also the potential risks during transportation. Recognising this, the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) is now equipping its trucks with digital locks and location tracking devices to safeguard against adulteration of its ghee, particularly under the Nandini brand during transit.

In light of allegations that animal fat was mixed into the ghee used for the temple's offerings in Tirumala, the Karnataka government has ordered the testing of ghee from all brands, except Nandini. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been tasked with collecting and analysing samples from private suppliers to verify their quality.

Addressing the media, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao emphasised that all brands, except Nandini, would undergo rigorous quality checks. The state is taking stringent precautions to ensure the quality of ghee supplied across Karnataka, he added. Moreover, the FSSAI Deputy Commissioner also issued orders for the collection and thorough testing of samples from all ghee brands to prevent any further incidents of adulteration.

An official said that the introduction of digital locks and GPS tracking on ghee transportation trucks is a crucial step toward ensuring the purity and safety of the products we consume. "...Digital locks, coupled with GPS tracking, provide real-time oversight, preventing any unauthorised access to the product. This is particularly important when supplying sacred offerings like the Tirupati laddu prasad, where purity is not just a legal requirement but also a matter of religious sanctity. Moreover, this approach sets a new standard for food safety and integrity across industries. Implementing such technology-driven solutions reassures the public, fosters trust, and strengthens the commitment to delivering only the highest quality products."

— Sridhar Vivan

Survey on street vendors to commence next week

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'The ID cards issued to street vendors expired in February 2023'

The much-delayed and hyped survey of street vendors will begin next week, as confirmed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's Special Commissioner for Health and Animal Husbandry.

There are around 1,50,000 street vendors in the city, according to Street Vendors' Cell State President CE Rangaswamy. "The survey and identity cards would be a great help for street vendors to avail financial assistance from banks and do business at vending zones. The process of identifying the vending zones will begin only after completing the survey on street vendors," he said.

The survey was supposed to be held two years ago. It was once again slated for July, but nothing was done till date. "The delay in commencing and completing the survey of street vendors is causing delay in identifying vending and non-vending zones. Many street vendors are yet to get identity cards to avoid harassment and exploitation by police and others," said Rangaswamy.

He further added that he has advised the street vendors to keep all the required documents with them to facilitate the survey process. "I want all the street vendors to cooperate with the BBMP employees during the survey. They should not forget to avail the identity card free of charge from the authorities since the identity card is mandatory for street vendors," he said, adding that the BBMP authorities have rectified some errors in the special app developed to mark the location of street vendors and other details.

Expressing concern, Vinay Srinivasa of Karnataka Pragathipara Beedi Vyaparigala Sangha said the delay in conducting the survey and issuing the identity cards has been causing a lot of inconvenience to the street vendors in Bengaluru. "The identity cards issued to the street vendors by the BBMP authorities expired in February 2023, but the authorities are yet to take measures to issue new identity cards. We have been asking them to inform us about the schedule of the survey on street vendors, but we are yet to receive any information," he said. Srinivasa further said that the BBMP authorities and police have been evicting street vendors in some areas in the city.

> **"BBMP authorities are yet to take measures to issue new identity cards to street vendors** –Vinay Srinivasa, K'taka Pragathipara Beedi Vyaparigala Sangha

Cauvery stage 5 may soon be officially inaugurated

Govt says it may be inaugurated on Oct 12, promises to finally distribute water to all houses

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With the long delayed, Cauvery fifth stage project, the State government says that the project may be officially inaugurated on October 12 coinciding with Vijaya Dashami day. However, supplying water to Bengaluru is no small feat, especially when you consider the height it needs to reach. Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) engineers point out that the city, which lacks perennial rivers, relies on sourcing water from the Cauvery River, located a staggering 110 kilometres away. The challenge escalates due to Bengaluru's elevation, which sits between 900 to 920 metres above sea level. This means the water must be pumped up to heights equivalent to a towering 50-storey building, approximately 450 metres high. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar who inspected the Cauvery fifth stage works on Monday said that the infrastructure required for such an operation will demand a remarkable 24 million man-hours of labour, showcasing the scale and ambition of this essential project.

To meet the water demands of 110 newly added villages within the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike jurisdiction, a staggering 2,200 million litres per day (MLD) is required. Currently, Bengaluru receives only 1,450 MLD through the existing four stages of its water supply system. To address this shortfall, the Cauvery Stage 5 project was initiated in 2014, planned in two phases. By 2018, a detailed project report (DPR) was submitted to JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), paving the way for a formal loan agreement. Construction officially began in March 2020, with tendering processes and actual work commencing in November. Since then, numerous deadlines have expired even though the project was to be completed last year itself but the government blamed Covid for the delay.

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar inspects the newly-constructed Cauvery water project Phase 5, at Harohalli

Bengaluru sits between 900 to 920 metres above sea level. This means the water must be pumped up to heights equivalent to a towering 50-story building

"A centerpiece of this project is India's largest water treatment plant, boasting a capacity of 775 MLD, complemented by three state-of-the-art booster pumping stations located at TK Halli, Harohalli, and Tataguni. As of August 2024, pre-commissioning activities are underway, and all necessary inspections have been completed. The final plan to distribute Cauvery water to every household in Bengaluru is now set in motion. Residents in various neighbourhoods, including Yeshwantpur, Bangalore South, Byatarayanapura, T Dasarahalli, Mahadevapura, Rajarajeshwarinagar, and Bommanahalli, will soon have access to this vital resource. The BWSSB has already established 1.064 million connections in the city, and with the implementation of the Cauvery Stage 5 project, an additional 400,000 connections are anticipated, further enhancing the board's revenue," DKS said.

Historically, Bengaluru's water needs were met by local lakes such as Dharmambudhi, Sampangi, Halasuru, and Sankey until 1896. These sources, along with local wells and ponds, proved inadequate as the city grew. The Arkavathi River was then identified as a viable water source, and supply efforts commenced the same year. However, as urbanisation and population surged, the necessity for new resources became undeniable, leading to the eventual incorporation of Cauvery water. "Since 1974, the Karnataka government has been progressively implementing the Cauvery water supply system to adequately meet the increasing demands of the city," DKS added.

Venu Gopala Swamy Temple to be plastic-free

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In a step towards sustainability, an organisation in Malleswaram has launched a 'Plastic-free temple' initiative at the Venu Gopala Swamy Temple in Malleswaram. The project aims to significantly reduce plastic waste and promote eco-friendly practices among devotees, gaining strong support from the temple management and community volunteers.

Temples are often visited by large numbers of devotees who face the ongoing challenge of managing the plastic waste generated through offerings, plastic bags, and bottles. Bharavase, an NGO's initiative addresses this issue by introducing sustainable alternatives. A key feature of the project is the establishment of a composting unit. Here, organic waste like flowers and leaves offered by devotees will be composted and used to enrich the temple gardens.

"Our goal is to create a circular system where waste is transformed into something beneficial. This approach helps the temple to not only reduce its waste but also create a greener, more environmentally friendlier space," explains one of the team members involved in setting up the composting unit.

Volunteers are transforming Tulasi leaves and flowers into life-giving compost

An essential part of the initiative is raising awareness among devotees about reducing plastic use. Bharavase volunteers have been actively engaging with the temple community by distributing informational pamphlets and holding awareness sessions. These efforts focus on explaining the harmful effects of plastic pollution and encouraging devotees to switch to more sustainable alternatives, such as using cloth bags and reusable water bottles.

"People are receptive when they understand the impact of their actions. This initiative is already showing positive results, and we hope it will inspire others to adopt similar practices," said Sunil from Bharavase.

By providing the necessary space for the composting units and committing to phasing out single-use plastic items within the temple premises, the temple authorities have shown strong leadership in supporting this green transformation.

Sunil said, "We are fortunate to have the temple management's full support in this effort. Together, we are demonstrating that even sacred spaces can lead the way in sustainability. We are inviting more people from the community to get involved in this movement. Whether through volunteering, donating resources, or adopting eco-friendly habits in their daily lives, every small action helps. Our initiative proves that with collective effort, change is not only possible but impactful."

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Cow trouble
Koramangala

Cows are frequently found using bus shelters near 80 feet road, KHB Games Village, Koramangala, making it unusable for pedestrians.

Walkers' threat
Indiranagar

In Indiranagar, near the NIA, the pavement adjacent to two prominent schools has deteriorated significantly. A large pit has formed, and the pavement planks are loose, posing a serious risk to students.

Unsanitary toilet
Indian Express circle

An illegal toilet has been set up on the traffic island at Indian Express Circle, creating an unsanitary and disruptive situation. This unauthorised facility is affecting the cleanliness and safety of the traffic circle.

Man attacked with chemical in broad daylight, case registered

CRIME FILES

A 31-year-old factory employee sustained severe burn injuries after being attacked with a toilet cleaning chemical by an unidentified assailant in Summanahalli, under Kamakshipalya police station limits, on Sunday afternoon.

The victim Nagesh Konda was on his way home and speaking on the phone, when the perpetrators threw the chemical at him. He suffered burns on his face and hands but managed to reach home, where he informed his roommate. She rushed him to a private hospital before he was shifted to Victoria Hospital for further treatment. Police have seized the plastic bottle used in the attack from the crime scene.

Miscreants set fire to bikes in HMT Layout

Four persons set fire to motorcycles parked in front of homes in HMT Layout, under the jurisdiction of Peenya Police Station. The miscreants' actions were caught on CCTV cameras. It is alleged that the attackers targeted bikes belonging to youths from North India. Footage shows the culprits siphoning petrol from a Bullet before setting it ablaze. Three bikes, including the Bullet, were completely destroyed in the fire.

Goon attack leaves 1 critically injured

Rowdy-sheeters launched an attack using machetes in the Chennamanakere police station limits on Sunday night, leaving one person critically injured and two others hurt. The attack is reported to have involved two groups of rowdy-sheeters, escalating into a brutal altercation. According to the police, two cases of assault have been filed against four accused persons from both sides involved in the attack. As of now, five individuals—three from one side and two from the other—are being questioned by the authorities. Efforts are underway to trace the remaining three accused, who are currently absconding.

Woman's murder: Prime suspect identified

Two days after the murder of 29-year-old Mahalaksmi, whose dismembered body was found in a refrigerator at her residence in Vyalikaval, the police have identified the prime suspect. Home Minister G Parameshwara confirmed to reporters on Monday that significant clues had been collected, but withheld further details. "An individual involved in the crime has been identified. He is from West Bengal. We are working swiftly to apprehend the suspects," he said. City Police Commissioner B Dayananda stated that multiple angles of the case are being investigated. **BMB**

Cat burglars caught, booty recovered

2 accused with multiple prior cases finally arrested; valuables worth Rs 35 lakh seized, 11 cases cracked

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Police have cracked a theft and car robbery syndicate operating across multiple districts, seizing valuables worth ₹35 lakh. The arrest of two men involved in the theft of gold jewellery, silver coins, cars, two-wheelers, and mobile phones that is said to have solved around 11 cases across different police jurisdictions in Bengaluru city and beyond.

Crime & probe

The case was set in motion when a resident of Yelenahalli, Bannerghatta Main Road, filed a complaint on August 1, at the Hulimavu Police Station. The man said his two-wheeler parked outside his house on July 30 was stolen when he went out of town for a day.

Police officers pursued multiple leads and finally on August 26, two suspects were apprehended near Hulimavu Lake with the stolen two-wheeler. The two have been identified as Ullas, alias Dati, and Chandru, alias Kariwad, of Nandini Layout. Ullas has 24 cases registered against him across the city and various rural districts, while Chandru faces 23 cases in all.

Upon questioning, it was revealed that the duo had been involved in house burglaries, vehicle thefts, and break-ins in the city, Bengaluru Rural, Tumakuru and Malavalli in Mandya. The police conducted raids on August 29 and recovered 30.04 grams of gold jewellery stashed at Gold Finan in Indiranagar.

In addition, two cars and two two-wheelers, hidden in a vacant lot in Dodda Kammanahalli, were seized. Inside one of the cars, officers discovered 30 grams of silver coins, an iron rod used in the crimes, and cash totalling₹2,840.

The next day, police seized 40 grams of gold jewellery from another jewellery shop in Indiranagar. They also recovered two additional cars and one more two-wheeler, parked in a vacant lot in MK Doddy, Malavalli.

The haul

In total, the police seized 70 gm of gold jewellery, 30 gm of silver coins, four cars, four two-wheelers, the iron rod used for break-ins, and two mobile phones. The entire haul was valued at ₹35 lakh.

While much of the stolen property has been recovered, police are still tracing the owners of one car and one two-wheeler.

The modus operandi

The accused would specifically target homes and vehicles left unattended, focusing on residential areas and the outskirts of the city. Using an iron rod to break locks, they would steal valuables and vehicles. After using the stolen gold and money, they abandoned the vehicles on any vacant land, avoiding further use of them.

Police suspect that the duo is connected to a larger criminal network operating in both urban and rural areas. Three other suspects involved in the crimes remain at large.

For its efforts in solving this case, the police team has been awarded a cash prize of ₹10,000.

Thief with eye on villas

The police have arrested a man involved in a string of thefts targeting luxury villas across the city. The accused, who hails from Tripura, was nabbed by the Kothanur police, leading to the recovery of stolen items worth ₹21 lakh. Items seized from the man include 170 grams of gold jewellery, 32 high-end watches, 3,900 US dollars, and five mobile phones. The arrest has helped police crack nine theft cases across multiple police jurisdictions.

The first complaint against him was filed on September 7. The complainant had left the door of the upper floor open on August 15 night and discovered the next morning that a watch, mobile phone, and wallet containing 1,900 US dollars that he had placed on the dining table, were missing.

Investigating the case, police collected vital information from informants, eventually apprehending the accused near Gubbi Kas in Kothanur on September 12.

The accused has been identified as Ameeth Debarma. He is said to have been monitoring villas by climbing tall trees and walls to then gain entry through drainage pipes or back doors.

Making websites friendly for disabled: Patents office tells HC

The High Court was recently informed by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks that it is taking measures to ensure its websites are accessible to Persons with Disabilities (PwD), in accordance with the current guidelines issued by the Union of India.

In response to the submission, a plea seeking the accessibility of the patent, designs, and trademarks authority's websites to persons with disabilities was disposed of by the High Court. Justice MGS Kamal, in a single judge bench order on September 17, stated, "The apprehension given to the petitioner has been substantially complied. Learned counsel for the petitioner also concedes to the same. In that view of the matter, the petition is disposed of, in terms of the affidavit."

Dr V Parimalavarsini, the Deputy Controller of Patents and Designs, filed an affidavit stating that the Controller General's office has issued its own 'Guidelines For Accessibility and Reasonable Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities'. The affidavit mentioned that the authority will provide OCR (Optical Character Recognition) readable documents upon request by Persons with Disability. Additionally, "audio captcha" has been incorporated into the websites owned by the Office of the Controller General, and virtual hearings are being conducted on the Webex platform, which is compatible with "screen readers".

The affidavit also noted that the Office will favourably consider requests for adjournment, whenever possible, when made by Persons with Disability due to accessibility issues. Furthermore, the Office has started preparing the scope of work for a tender to make the websites accessible to Persons with Disability, in accordance with the prevailing Guidelines issued by the Union of India. The sites will be made accessible to Persons with Disabilities once the approvals from the authorities are obtained, as stated in the affidavit.

The order was issued in response to a writ petition filed by Dr Kalyan C Kankanala. **BMB**

B'luru protests summit with Israel in shadow of Gaza

'IISc's act of collab reflects intentional siding with ongoing genocide in Gaza & Lebanon'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A protest was held against the Indian Institute of Science (IISC), condemning the institution for allowing the hosting of an India-Israel Business Summit amidst ongoing atrocities committed by Israel in Palestine and Lebanon. The event sparked outrage among activists and academics who criticised the involvement of IISC, Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Indian Institute of Technology, Bengaluru (IIT-B), National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), and the Government of Karnataka in this summit.

The protest and a press conference were led by activists and academics who strongly opposed IISC's decision to lease its auditorium for the summit, especially at a time when Israel has escalated its genocide in Gaza and expanded its war crimes across Lebanon, killing and injuring thousands. The summit's association with Israel during such atrocities undermines the fundamental values of academic institutions, they said.

Aishwarya from Bangalore for Justice and Peace, began the press conference but was quickly interrupted by police, who insisted the Palestinian flag be removed and attempted to shut down the press conference. The flag was snatched from one of the protestors. Only then the press conference was allowed to continue, the protesters said.

Clifton D' Rozario, General Secretary of All India Lawyers Association for Justice (AILAJ), voiced his concerns, "We are witnessing a genocide in Palestine, with women and children being killed,

Academic institutions like IISC by participating in this event, are failing to support global boycott calls

> **"Are these institutions about creating knowledge for peace and equitable well-being, or are they promoting war and violence?**
>
> –Prajval Shastri, astrophysicist

and yet our institutions are partnering with Israel for business. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has directed states not to engage with Israel on these grounds, and it's deeply troubling that IISC continues to facilitate such events."

Prajval Shastri, a renowned astrophysicist, who completed her PhD at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, questioned the institution's ethics, "We must ask ourselves, are these institutions about creating knowledge for peace and equitable well-being, or are they promoting war and violence? Hosting such summits aligns them with the genocide taking place in Palestine. IISC claims they just rented the space, but this is far more than that."

Madhu Bhushan, a feminist activist, criticised the summit's support for the testing of Israeli weapons on Palestinians, "Today, Palestine has become a testing ground for Israel's weapons. Do we not have a moral spine? Palestinian people have the right to exist. This is not business as usual; it's about the future of our young minds, and we are deeply pained by this and stand firmly against it."

The Karnataka government's involvement was also condemned, especially in light of the recent ICJ ruling urging institutions not to support Israel's actions.

All India Students Association (AISA) noted that a petition with over 1,500 signatures from students and faculty was submitted to IISC Director asking the institution to stop the event. "The response from the administration came in at 11.30 pm on the eve of the event, through an email by the registrar claiming that IISC had no idea what event was happening in their own hall, and that it was just rented out to unknown parties. This is a clear lie, given that in the past IISC administration has stopped events like discussions on democracy by activists like Teestha Setalvad, just two hours prior to the event," they said.

Civil society organisations noted that in addition to the Israel-Business summit in the morning, another program in the name of 'Haifa Memorial Lectures' was hosted in the evening by Mysore Lancers at IISC which included guests such as DK Shivakumar (Deputy Chief Minister) and Dinesh Gundu Rao (Cabinet Minister for Health Government of Karnataka). This event saw invited members host the Israel flag on the IISC premises, which clearly reflects their stance.

Case against Covaxin study criticised

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A group of scientists, researchers, ethicists, doctors, and civil society members have written an open letter to Bharat Biotech International Ltd (BBIL) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) criticising the defamation suit filed by the BBIL against the authors of a paper studying the symptoms of interest that were reported by people receiving the BBV152 vaccine, known as Covaxin.

In the letter they added, 'Like most research studies, this study has various limitations which the authors acknowledge within the paper. In the case of COVID-19 vaccines, which were universally rolled out, the bare minimum one can do is to carefully document what has happened to people who have taken the vaccine(s)."

According to the open letter by researchers and scholars, in this study the Banaras Hindu University is documenting adverse events of special interest (AESI) reported by people in a telephonic follow-up one year after vaccination. As a phase IV clinical research using an observational method, it was conducted after obtaining the relevant approval from the Institutional Ethics Committee. The results were published in Drug Safety, the official journal of the International Society of Pharmacovigilance after a peer review process required and facilitated by the journal itself. And unsurprisingly, the study showed that 99% of the people did not have any serious events.

"There were several media reports which misread the study and reported it as the vaccine causing side effects in 1/3rd of the individuals. No such claims could be made from the study as it was not set up to examine a causal link between the vaccine and the adverse events. This put ICMR and the vaccine manufacturer BBIL on a defensive mode. ICMR attacked the study and demanded retraction from the journal. BBIL has now filed a defamation suit in the court," they said adding that the actions of ICMR and BBIL are short-sighted and punitive.

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Trekkers, Gadaikallu has re-opened its doors

| Sridhar.Vivan
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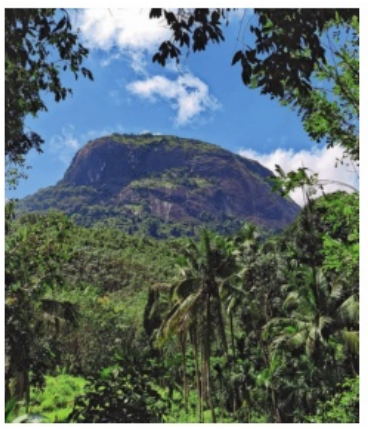
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Visitors can now access Gadaikallu, a popular trekking destination known for its stunning views at an elevation of 1,788 feet above sea level. To reach the summit, trekkers must navigate over 2,800 steep steps. The Archaeological Survey of India has designated Gadaikallu as a protected monument, situated within the boundaries of the Kudremukh National Park in Belthangady taluk, Dakshina Kannada district.

After ascending two-thirds of the way, trekkers are rewarded with views of the Kamanu peak. Continuing on the path, they can see flowing water between rocks, remnants of a partially ruined arsenal, and a serene pond. This natural beauty has made Gadaikallu an appealing destination for tourists. Previously, public access to Gadaikallu was restricted since last summer due to safety concerns regarding landslides and rock falls during the monsoon season. With the recent reduction in rainfall and drier conditions, access has now been granted.



The current permission is expected to remain in effect until December, after which restrictions may be reinstated as a precaution against potential landslides. Trekking is allowed from 7 am to 2 pm, but overnight stays are not permitted. For further information, visitors can refer to the designated website (kudremukhnationalpark.in).

To reach Gadaikallu, one must take the route from Belthangady town, traveling one kilometre to Lailya and then five km towards Killuru, followed by a three km walk to the base. Bus services are available from the nearby town of Manjotti, and parking is provided for private vehicles near the fort. Detailed directions can also be found on Google Maps. Admission fees for Gadaikallu are set at Rs 50 for adults and Rs 25 for children.

Officials reminded visitors to respect the local wildlife and avoid disturbing any animals in the forested areas. It is essential to maintain cleanliness throughout the environment, ensuring that all waste is properly disposed of. Additionally, any unwanted or disruptive activities will face strict consequences. This area has a complete ban on plastic to protect the natural surroundings.

HEALTH TIP: Make sure your gym clothes are made of a material that wicks away moisture as sweat can cause skin infections

Drinking a cup of milk a couple of times a day could help prevent cavities and tooth decay

Screen etiquette

Here's how to maintain healthy smartphone habits

What is the first thing you do in the morning after you awaken? Many people immediately check their phones for notifications of messages, alerts and social media updates by their social ties.

Ninety-seven percent of U.S. adults report owning a cellphone, with 90% reporting that they own a smartphone.

While some researchers and media outlets portray phone use as detrimental, the reality is that the effects of technology use, including phones, vary depending on multiple factors. These include the amount, type, timing and purpose of that use. What is best for one group may not be best for another when thinking about technology use.

As a researcher who studies technology use and quality of life, I can offer some advice to hopefully help you thrive in a phone-saturated world. Some people may struggle with how to effectively use smartphones in their daily lives. And many people use their phones more than they think they do or more than they would like at times.

1 Monitor your use on a weekly basis

If the hours per day are increasing, think about why this is the case and whether this increased use is helping or hurting your everyday activities. An aspect of digital literacy is understanding your usage patterns.

2 Consider how you can use these devices to make your life easier

Using a smartphone can help people access online information, schedule appointments, obtain directions, communicate through a variety of mechanisms and potentially be in constant contact with their social ties.

This availability and access to information and social ties can be beneficial and help people juggle work and family responsibilities. However, it may also be related to work intensification, information overload, decreased well-being and the blurring of work/non-work boundaries.

Weighing the pros and cons of use may help you understand when your phone use is beneficial versus detrimental.

3 Silence nonessential notifications and alerts

Do you really need to know that an old friend from high school messaged you on Facebook at that particular moment?

4 Select particular times during the day for social media

Be deliberate about when you allow yourself to use your phone for social media and other activities. Knowing these times each day may help you concentrate as well as help you to use your phone in more useful and productive ways.

5 Avoid phone use at bedtime

Don't look at your phone last thing before going to sleep or first thing when you awaken. Have you ever checked email one last time before going to sleep, only to find a message that gets your mind racing and ends up impeding your rest?

6 Choose when not to use your phone

Set times and situations when you are not going to use your phone. Some of my research has shown that using your phone when in the presence of others who are not using devices, particularly older adults, can be perceived as rude, deter communication and induce distress. My colleagues and I termed this situation the physical-digital divide.

7 Find your own phone-use balance

Don't compare yourself with others in terms of amount of use but be cognizant of when your use is beneficial versus perhaps leading you to feel stressed or distracted.

8 Moderate phone-as-distraction

Using your phone as a distraction is OK, but do it in moderation. If you find yourself constantly turning to your phone when you are bored or working on something that is hard, try to find ways to maintain your focus and overcome the challenges you are experiencing.

9 Set boundaries

Let your immediate social ties know that you are not going to be checking your phone constantly. While people often expect immediate responses when they message others, the reality is that the majority of messages do not need an immediate response.

10 Be a savvy consumer of online information

This is not exclusive to phones, but it is relevant given the proportion of people who report using their mobile phones and other digital devices to access news and social media. In the era of mis- and disinformation, being critical of information found online is a necessity.

These suggestions can help you to be more cognizant of how much you are using your phone as well as the reasons you are using it. It's important for your well-being to be a critical consumer of technology and the information you glean from using your devices, particularly your ever-present mobile phone.

Shelia R. Cotten, Clemson University, The Conversation

All you need to know about...

Wedding cold feet

Why does it happen

According to Archana Singhal, Delhi-based counselling psychologist and family therapist, pre-wedding jitters often begin with the overwhelming task of managing wedding preparations. Balancing wedding shopping, invitations, dance rehearsals, societal expectations, and the anxiety of upcoming life changes can be challenging. "A lot of people start questioning the very idea of marriage," she says. "Some worry about how it will impact their daily lives, relationships with friends and family, or career goals." Past experiences – whether personal or observed – also shape one's view of marriage and their belief in its potential for success.

Mastering nerves

Coping with pre-wedding jitters can be overwhelming, but it's important to remember that there's nothing wrong with you for feeling this way. Rationalising these emotions away often doesn't work so, instead of dismissing them entirely, Arouba suggests four practical coping mechanisms every bride-to-be can try: Simple breathing exercises such as deep belly breathing, the 4-7-8 breathing technique, box breathing (also known as square breathing), alternate nostril breathing (Nadi Shodhana), and progressive relaxation breathing are all designed to promote a sense of relaxation.

Whether it's guided meditation or simply sitting quietly with your thoughts, any form of mindfulness can help you stay grounded. Regular physical activity is also a great way to release built-up stress.

Remind yourself that not everything needs to be flawless. Don't hesitate to delegate tasks to friends and family who are eager to help – they can lighten your load and make the process more enjoyable. Dedicate time to relax, whether that means indulging in a spa day, immersing yourself in a good book, or enjoying a favourite hobby. **— Femina**

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study shows antidepressants may improve brain function

A class of drugs that are commonly prescribed to treat depression, and anxiety may also help improve brain function and memory, claimed a study.

The study, published in the journal Biological Psychiatry, showed that SSRI (Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors) antidepressants have the potential to improve certain cognitive functions, such as verbal memory.

Verbal memory is the ability to remember words, sentences, stories, and other information presented through language.

Serotonin is often described as a 'feel good' chemical, and higher levels of serotonin circulating in the brain contribute to a sense of well-being, and can ease clinical depression in most sufferers.

Researchers from the Copenhagen University Hospital in the Netherlands measured brain function in 90 patients before and after taking the SSRI escitalopram daily for eight weeks.

The team scanned the participant's brain to measure the quantity of the serotonin receptor, the 5HT4 receptor. The patients were also given a series of tests to measure mood and cognitive abilities. About 40 patients were rescanned to measure the quantity of 5HT4 receptor in the brain.

The results showed that the levels of 5HT4 receptor had dropped by around 9 per cent in the brain and the mood of the patients also improved.

Further cognitive tests showed improvements, so that the less the 5HT4 receptor had changed the better the cognitive outcome. This phenomenon was particularly prominent for the ability to recall words, the researchers said.

SSRI medication may be an "important pro-cognitive target to consider in optimising outcomes of antidepressant treatment," said researcher Vibeke Dam from the Copenhagen University Hospital.

Dam added that the findings "reinforce the idea that serotonin is crucial to mood improvement".

The team also called for further research. The study was presented at ongoing the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) Conference in Milan, Italy. **— IANS**

Urgent need for functional primary healthcare centre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a delegation, she submitted a petition demanding the immediate reopening of the hospital.

"Common people here are not in a position to pay lakhs of rupees and go to a private hospital for emergency treatment. The nearby Bowring Hospital has also cleared out maternity facilities for various reasons. So they have to go to a distant Gosha Hospital, a hospital in Halasuru or take a loan and go to a private hospital. The situation where a pregnant woman suffering from labour pains has to wander for a government hospital is very pathetic," said Shanta .

In this densely populated ward, where affordable healthcare is a necessity, the closure of the hospital has deeply impacted the community. Many residents, unable to afford the high costs of private hospitals, are left with few alternatives. Bowring Hospital, once a backup option, no longer provides maternity services. To add to this, the Yeshwantpur Maternity Hospital has also closed down.

A look at the surroundings of the Poor House Maternity Hospital building is quite enough to explain the situation. The premises are

KAUSHIK JN

overgrown with weeds, standing as a symbol of neglect. The Health Commissioner Kishore while receiving the petition, explained that the hospital had been included under the "Brand Bengaluru" project, a government initiative aimed at urban renewal. However, he added that financial assistance from the government had dried up, leaving the project in limbo. The partially constructed new building stands as a grim reminder of unfulfilled conditions, and now, with plans to demolish it, the reopening is expected to be delayed by another two-three years. "We were supposed to call tenders for the repairs for the center, but due to unforeseen circumstances, the process couldn't move forward. The local authorities have recommended a complete reset, and the planning is being reactivated, though it has caused a delay of around three years already. We are trying to expedite it as much as possible. Fortunately, other maternity homes are available every 2 km, so maternity and delivery services remain active. However, there's no doubt that the centre must be reactivated. The reconstruction decision should have been made earlier, or they could have continued with the old plan. I have spoken to my CHO, and they've been instructed to make an immediate decision and proceed," Kishore told BM.

Every Thursday, the hospital premises offer limited primary healthcare services, including vaccinations for children, health check-ups for ASHA workers, and care for pregnant women. However, Shanta said, "We understand that the construction will take time, but what we urgently need is a fully functional primary healthcare centre, especially to handle emergencies for pregnant women."

For the residents of Shivajinagar, the hospital is more than just a healthcare facility; it is a symbol of community care. And though they are hopeful it will reopen, as of now its future appears hazy.

Effluent treatment plant is nowhere in sight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the TG Halli reservoir is incapable of removing industrial effluent. It is fitted with a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to treat wastewater by removing organic pollutants and pollutants made from human waste and a Water Treatment Plant for disinfection and cleaning.

No ETP

Officials from Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) told BM that although the Board has requested KSPCB to set an effluent treatment plant (ETP) to remove industrial effluents from the water before entering TG Halli, it has not materialised.

"Since Arkavathi receives industrial effluent from the Peenya Industrial area, we have kept the water share of Arkavathi into the reservoir to the minimum (1:20) and diluted it with Cauvery water. BWSSB has appraised the need for an ETP to KSPCB. However, it has not happened despite asking for it for more than 10 years," said a source at BWSSB.

KSPCB member secretary HC Balachandra informed BM that a tender to establish an ETP in the region will be floated soon.

"A tender to construct an ETP in the area was floated by KSPCB, but it was canceled due to the model code of conduct for Lok Sabha Elections-2024 and Karnataka MLC elections.

However, we have prepared another tender document and it will be floated in a week. Ideally, every industry in the area should have an ETP. But, the industries have so far relied upon common effluent treatment plants that are proving to be inadequate," said Balachandra.

Environmentalists have in the past highlighted that contamination of the river is not just from untreated sewage but also from industries and agricultural runoff. Under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP), KSPCB tests the river water for dissolved oxygen (DO) level, biochemical oxygen demand, total coliform, and fecal coliform levels. They said that the process being followed under NWMP is inadequate and imprudent.

"The idea of NWMP is not just to monitor the pollution level but to also mitigate it. The board must take action under the 'Polluter Pay' principle and should come up with location-specific recommendations to improve water quality. Moreover, inorganic pollutant load should also be monitored," said V Ram Prasad, founder of Friends of Lakes.

Water quality worrisome

The most recent water quality report of the Arkavathi (March 2024) by KSPCB shows that the river stretch at TG Halli Reservoir has been recording high values of Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), keeping it under class E.

The BOD value had reached 21, the highest level recorded since NWMP began in 2018. The BOD value of the river stretch in December 2018 was recorded to be 4 and has gradually increased to 15.

The density of biological indicators in the river water, showing high organic pollution, has also surged since 2018. While the total coliform bacteria in 2018 was recorded to be 3,500 MPN/100 ml, it has gone up to 35,00,000 MPN/100 ml in December 2023.

The amount of fecal coliform bacteria has also increased multifold. The total fecal coliform level recorded in December 2018 was 300 MPN/100 ml. This has increased to 46,000 MPN/100 ml. Thus, the dissolved oxygen (DO) value has dropped significantly (from 5.2 mg/l in December 2018 to 1.8 mg/l in December 2023).

According to CPCB standards, the BOD level for drinking water sources after conventional treatment and disinfection is 20. The permissible level of fecal coliform bacteria in water bodies considered suitable for bathing, contact water sports, and commercial fisheries is 100 MPN/100 ml.

Similarly, in water bodies suitable only for industrial cooling, aesthetics, navigation, and controlled waste disposal, the permissible level of fecal coliform bacteria is 500 MPN/100 ml.

Report unavailable

Currently, KSPCB monitors 12 rivers in Karnataka under the Central Government's NWMP, including Arkavathi, Lakshmantirtha, Tungabhadra, Bhadra, Cauvery, Kabini, Kagina, Krishna, Shimsha, Bhima, Netravati, and Tunga.

The water quality of these rivers is monitored at 38 locations, including two locations of Arkavathi.

As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) the monthly water quality reports of these rivers should be uploaded on KSPCB's website. However, these reports have been missing since March 2024.

"The reports were being uploaded every month up till March. However, we have not been able to stick to this schedule due to staff crunch," said a KSPCB official.

"By not uploading water quality reports, KSPCB is hoodwinking citizens. Citing a shortage of manpower for not following rules is a lame excuse. KSPCB is not bothered about the health of citizens and has been ignoring environmental issues," added Ramprasad.

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I Dilanaz Begum Nagalapura Amanulla Sharif D/O, Amanulla Sharif R/o 275 3rd Cross 4th Main Road Rahamath Nagar R T Nagar Post Bengaluru 560032 Karnataka have changed my name to Dilnaz Begum.

I M Venkatesan S/O, Manickam R/o No 53 Jaya Homes 1st Floor Door No 103 2nd Cross Subbanapalya Subramanya Temple Street Ms Nagar Blr-560033 have changed my name to M Venkatesh.

I, Manjunatha Hottegoudara S/o Channaveerappa Hottegoudara R/o 1st Ward Fort Holalu Village & Post Vijayanagar-583217 have changed my name to Manjunath Channaveerappa Hottigoudar for all Purposes.

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 # No need for anticipatory bail
The Kerala High Court closed the anticipatory bail applications moved by actor Jayasurya in connection with sexual abuse allegations made against him last month as the offences are bailable

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

On love & humanity

Arjun Kishore Chandra, who has acted in Life 360 and Maaye & Company, has come out with a music video that has a message to society, on the importance of adopting orphans.

"I work in Ireland. I have come across some people, especially refugees, seeking help and alms in Ireland. Their plight made me want to make this video in which the lead pair adopts an orphan girl," said Chandra. The seven-minute music video is about how the fates of three souls intertwine in a narrative of compassion, love, and the extraordinary power of humanity.

The music video is about the love story of Thanmay (Chandra), a young Indian software engineer working far from home, and Mary.

"We have tried our best to deliver a social message through this music video Sarvasva and our music director Chetan has done a great job," said Chandra, adding that the video has received 11,500 views so far.

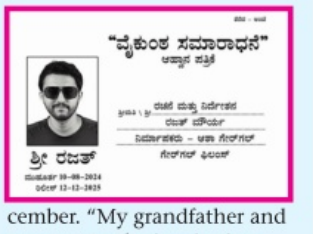
All in the stars

Vaikunta Samaradhane joins the list of movies with peculiar titles. Rajat Maurya, an advocate, plays the lead apart from writing the script, screenplay and directing the movie. The title of the movie was unveiled recently. Prominent personalities of Sandalwood and advocates graced the function.

"I have worked as a legal consultant and also did modeling. I had training in acting and direction during leisure time. Now, I have decided to direct the movie that conveys a message to society. The movie revolves around senior citizens and their children and what the former expects from the latter," said Maurya.

Vaikunta Samaradhane is a ceremony that takes place on the 13th day after a person's death to celebrate their entry into Vaikunta, the home of Vishnu. "I am a devotee of Sri Balaji. I also believe in astrology. An astrologer predicted a bright future for me. I have decided to direct this movie after tasting success in my profession as an advocate," Maurya said.

He said that he has been busy with the script of the movie. "We want to conduct auditions to select the cast for the movie. If all goes well, the movie will go on floors in December. "My grandfather and parents are the inspiration for me to write the script for this movie. I spent my childhood with my grandfather. The movie will have all the elements to entertain the audiences," he said, adding that 60% of the shooting would be held in Malnad and the remaining portion in Bengaluru.



DP's fun parenting insights

Actor Deepika Padukone, who welcomed her first child, a baby girl, with husband Ranveer Singh on September 8, has started to share glimpses of her life as a new mother.

On Monday, Deepika reshared an Instagram Reel that encapsulates the challenges of new parenthood in a humorous fashion. The video features a woman navigating a chaotic morning routine, humorously portraying what if "adults ate like newborns".

It begins with her waking up on a sofa, heading to the kitchen, and struggling to eat at the dining table, ultimately passing out right after her first bite.

Deepika accompanied the post with a GIF of a person peeking out from behind curtains, symbolising her new phase of life. Just days after her delivery, Deepika was discharged from the hospital, and she made her first public appearance alongside Ranveer Singh as they brought their newborn home.

The couple has been relatively private since the birth of their first child, but Deepika's updated Instagram bio now reflects her new responsibilities: "Feed. Burp. Sleep. Repeat."

Deepika was last seen in the film 'Kalki 2898 AD.' —ANI

Zendaya on what fashion means to her

Singer-actress Zendaya has spoken about the pressures of fame and why fashion became an armor to her. During a screening event held in New York City for "Dune: Part Two", a question by the audience drew comparisons between the warnings of Messianic cult followings depicted in the epic sci-fi film and the state of celebrity fandoms in pop culture nowadays. Zendaya spoke to her experience dealing with the all-encompassing nature of being a celebrity. "I feel like, often, I am not cut out for that part of it. I do love my job, I'm so grateful. I love doing the work, I love being on set, I do love moments like this — don't get me wrong — but I am terrified of that part of it, often."

Talking about her being an introvert, Zendaya added: "I was a shy kid, always have been, and so this part isn't natural — that is a huge reason why fashion became important to me because it became like armor to pretend to go out and do the job," reports deadline.com.

"So I don't know if I, either, can fully relate, but I definitely understand what you're saying, and I think that's what's terrifying to me," she concluded. "I don't necessarily know if I want or can handle all of that or want (that) — some people that's part of it, they enjoy the power that comes from it, and I don't know if that's for me."

—IANS

Tremendous honour

Kiran Rao on her directorial Laapataa Ladies being India's Oscars pick

Kiran Rao's directorial venture Laapataa Ladies has been chosen as India's official entry in the Best Foreign Film Category for the Oscars 2025 by the Film Federation of India on Monday.

An ecstatic Kiran told us, "I was hoping that Laapataa Ladies would be selected by the committee, but honestly, I didn't expect it. My first reaction was utter disbelief! It's only after my phone started pinging non-stop that I realised what had happened. I spoke to Aamir (Khan, co-producer) as soon as it was confirmed, and then others from our team - Ram Sampath, Sneha Desai, Chhaya Kadam, Ravi Kishan and Divynidhi Sharma. It has been quite overwhelming. This has been such a great year for Indian films and there were so many brilliant films in the mix. It's a tremendous honour for our entire team."

The film was applauded by critics and audiences alike. About the love the film has received, Kiran shared, "We have such a treasure trove of talent in India, and it's always a delight to discover and present new actors to the audience. Getting an opportunity to direct a film is such a great privilege in the first place. I'm grateful to Aamir for giving me this opportunity and to Jyoti Deshpande for championing the film."

Ask her if Laapataa Ladies will bring back an Oscar home and she says, "I have my fingers firmly crossed! For now, we are just happy to be selected. We have a long road ahead and will have to figure out the best way forward." On tapping into Aamir's experience to plan a strategy she said, "Aamir's experience will of course be invaluable to us. His insights and knowledge will help formulate the strategy for our campaign."

—Onkar Kulkarni, ETimes

MEANWHILE...

HUMOUR & HEART

Actress Pratibha Ranta, who essayed the role of Jaya Tripathi Singh or Pushpa Rani in 'Laapataa Ladies', is chuffed with the film being submitted as India's official entry to the 97th Academy Award by the Film Federation of India.

The actress is hopeful that the film will be able to secure a seat in the final nominations owing to the film's weaving of humour and heart into a story that resonates globally.

Talking about the same, the actress told IANS, "I'm so excited about the chance for 'Laapataa Ladies' to be in the running for the Oscars. It would mean everything to me. Working on this film has been an incredible experience, and I'm thrilled it might get recognized at such a high level. Playing Jaya has been a dream, especially since this is my first movie. The idea of an Oscar nomination is amazing".

She further mentioned, "I trust that the selection will showcase the best films, and I'm really thankful for this opportunity. I can't wait to see what comes next. As Indian films gain international acclaim, Laapataa Ladies stands out, weaving humour and heart into a story that resonates globally. Owing to this, there are strong chances of it making it to the final nominations, proving that our narratives can connect cultures beyond borders".

—IANS

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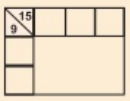
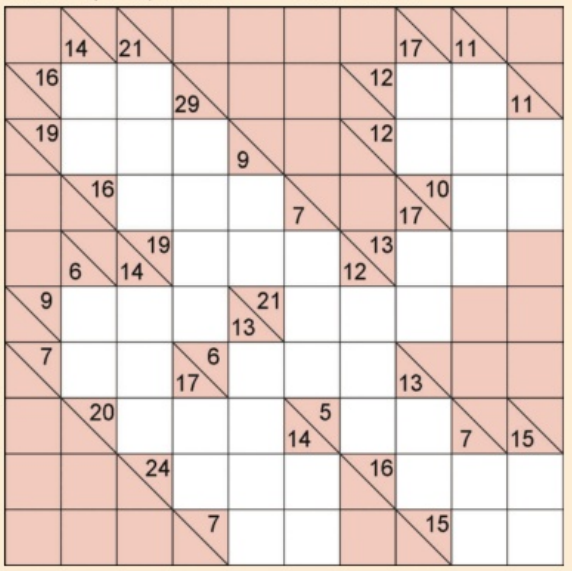
Kakuro

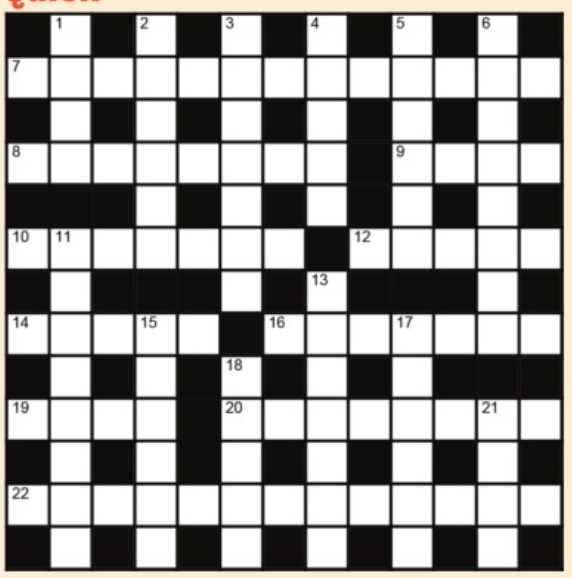
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Get the wrong idea (13)
8 Defeated or routed (8)
9 Secure a ship (4)
10 Fine-tunes (7)
12 In poor shape (5)
14 ___ Hills: Scenic spot around 60 kms from Bangalore (5)
16 Tossing slowly (7)
19 A door or a lid that's slightly open (4)
20 Praise highly (8)
22 Trouble to be expected? (3,5,2,3)

DOWN

1 Jetty or wharf (4)
2 Another word for "kabbadi" (2,2,2)
3 Teach (7)
4 Stock ploy (5)
5 Plant part (6)
6 On the move? (2,6)
11 Breaking-it-off (letter) (4,4)
13 Mundane or materialistic (7)
15 Ridicule or belittle (6)
17 Main tent in circus (3,3)
18 Ponderous (5)
21 Con (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS C

QBY FWKG QBTWM PFDIY QBXW X JXW GFA ZXW'Q ZFWQDFK TI X JXW GFA ZXW.

Linemaro

Let's flip a coin. Heads, you are mine. Tails, I am yours

Mindchow

Focus on what is important, Capture the good times, Develop from the Negatives, and if things don't work out, take another Shot

Joke of the day

Q: How do you know there is an elephant under your bed? A: Your nose touches the ceiling

Loop

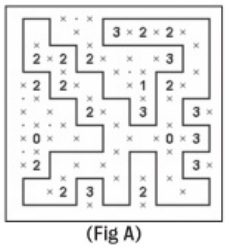
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

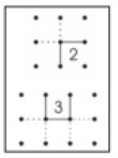
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

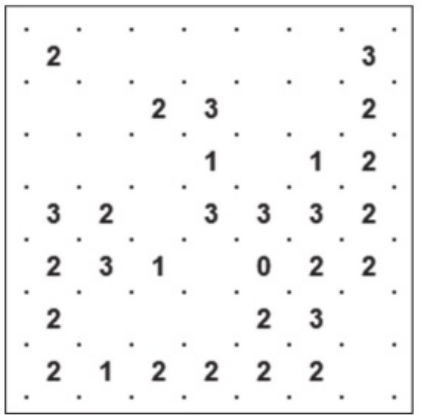
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



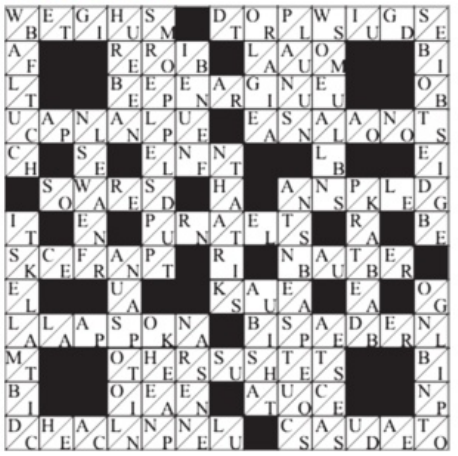
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



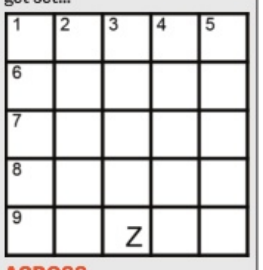
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Water; 6 A Nasa;
7 Lay is; 8 At let;
9 Zeds I

DOWN

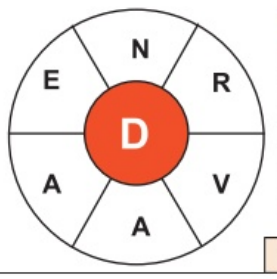
1 A-list; 2 A is as;
3 TZ law; 4 Eaten;
5 Deary

Mensapuzzle

Solve this rebus:

TUNNELIGHT

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	5	7			3			
	3		6		4		5	9
			1					3
4	2					3	8	
				4				
	9	1					2	6
7					1			
8	4		7		5		1	
			3			7	6	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

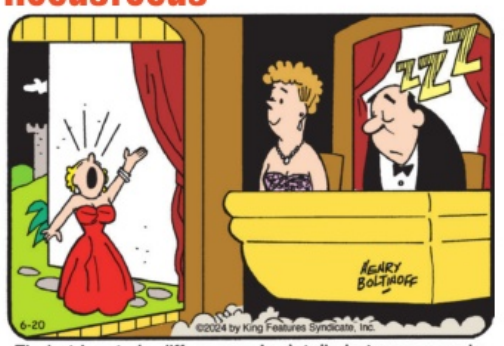
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3
2 4 6 7

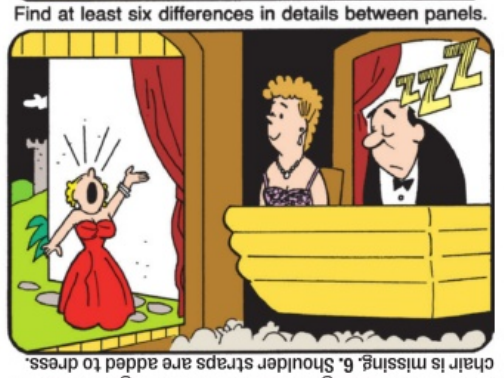
Medium = 17
2 3 5 7

Hard = 7
1 6 7 2

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



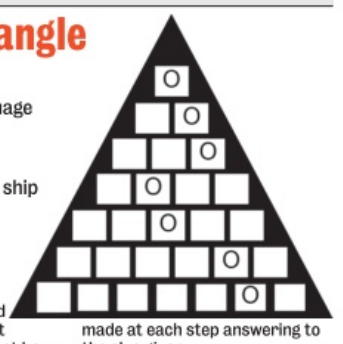
Differences: 1. Balcony is different. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Curtain is missing. 4. Woman's hair is longer. 5. Back of chair is missing. 6. Shoulder straps are added to dress.

Riddler

Can you identify what phrase is represented here? na S me T of O lo P ve

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number 8
2 'Behold!'
3 Indochinese language
4 Advance
5 By the way
6 Volume unit
7 Spanish treasure ship

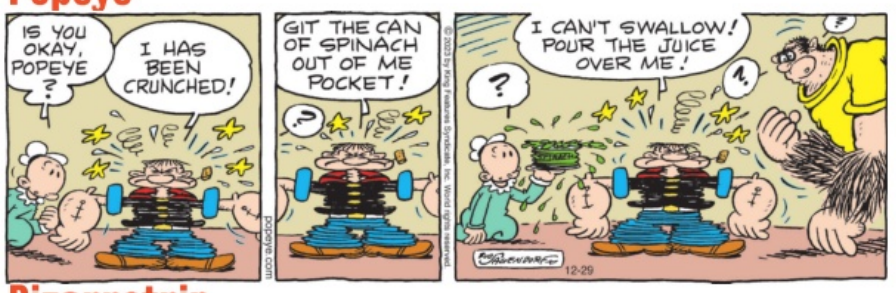


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Summer solstice isn't as long as any day stuck inside with kids during the pandemic.
BIZARRO.COM
Wayno & Piraro 6-20-24
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Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

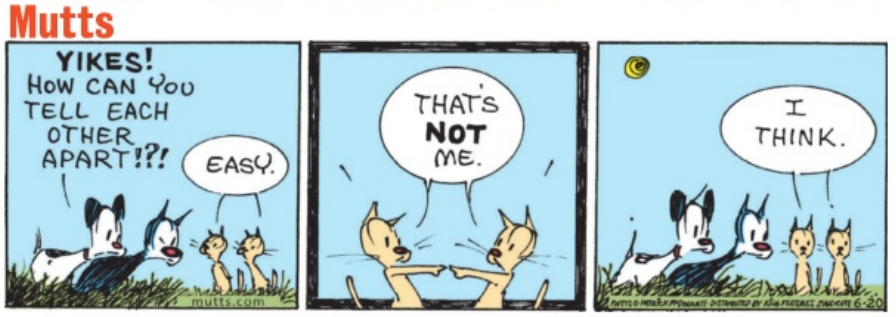
Hart of the city

HEART, WHAT ARE YOU TYPING SO FURIOUSLY?
I'LL TELL YOU, BUT YOU HAVE TO PROMISE NOT TO BE WEIRD ABOUT IT.
I'M A PARENT. I'M GONNA BE A LITTLE WEIRD.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE STARBUCK JONES CHARACTER THAT KEEPS YOU COMING BACK TO PORTRAY HIM?
IT'S THE CHALLENGE!
I LOVE THE CHARACTER ARC FROM BRASH, YOUNG HERO...
STARBUCK JONES III THE RISE OF THE BANDELORIANS
TO BRASH, SLIGHTLY OLDER HERO!
E.T.
BATUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may feel dull, it is advised to keep your mind cool. It is a golden rule for you to think twice before you act. You may travel to recover your money, otherwise you may lose your money. You are also advised to avoid going for adventure tours. Students are advised to go for in-depth studies to get success.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may plan to renovate your house. You may buy some artefacts or creative stuff, which will improve your social status. You may also invest in properties and other assets. You are likely to enjoy your romantic moments with your spouse, which will increase your emotional relationship with the spouse. Singles may find a soul mate. Love birds may make some important decisions.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may feel happy. Chronic health issues related to family members may not be cured. Money which was stuck, may be recovered now, that may increase liquidity in the business. People who are in a job may get some incentives which will improve your financial health. Job seekers may get a job with the help of any relative or friend's reference.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is important for domestic life. You may be busy with your kids. You may hear some good news in terms of kids' education. You may buy some creative stuff for home or office to maintain your social status. You are advised to use wisdom while buying any household stuff or jewellery.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may be impatient, which may reflect in your way of working. There may be some silly mistakes, which may stop you from completing your task. Investments in fixed assets are advised to postpone for some days. But with the help of an elder's blessings, you may overcome the messy situation. In the evening, you may be focused on your work.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are blessed by the moon, your destiny is likely to be with you. Today you may be more energetic and focused on your work. Your hard work may pay you in terms of success. Your subordinates may help you. You are likely to go for short work related travels. Some good news may come from your siblings. You may plan to renovate your house or office.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your savings. You may be more creative today, you may use your creativity in your office or at home, which may enhance your social status. Love birds may likely get some support from their family members and friends for marriage.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today messy situations are now under control. You may have peace of mind. You may be able to make a proper balance in expenditure and earnings, which may increase your savings. You are advised to avoid too much travelling or overworking, it may affect your health. Students can start planning for their higher studies. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may face health issues, which may make you impatient. You are advised to control your short temper. You may spend your hard earned money buying worthless stuff, it may affect your savings. Love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics, otherwise there might be some break up.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may meet some influential person, who may help you in the progress of your work. Your network will be strong with the help of that person. You may prepare yourself to implement new ideas into your work or business. You will plan to invest more capital into your business, that may give you financial gains in the near future.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today your mothers' health may be good. You may enjoy at work, you may get rewards for your hard work. Your social respect may be increased now. Overworking your mind may make you tired. Due to workload, you may not be able to reach some family events. But your family will support you a lot.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be satisfied at work. You may plan for a short work related trip. You may also visit some religious places to maintain your inner peace. Your gurus may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

KIDZONE

Jonas Eapen Abraham, 9 Years, Kairalee Nilayam Central School

Vishnupriya BD, 12 Years, Cormel School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
1+4+9+16-25-36+49=18

BULL'S EYE
dare, darn, dean, dear, rave, read, rend, vend, VERANDA

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel

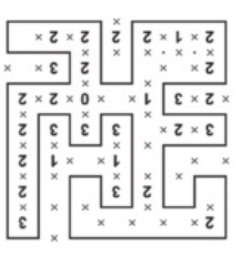
QUOTE UNCODE
The only thing worse than a man you can't control is a man you can.

SUDOKU

6	5	7	9	8	3	2	4	1
1	3	2	6	7	4	8	5	9
9	8	4	1	5	2	6	7	3
4	2	6	5	1	9	3	8	7
3	7	8	2	4	6	1	9	5
5	9	1	8	3	7	4	2	6
7	6	9	4	2	1	5	3	8
8	4	3	7	6	5	9	1	2
2	1	5	3	9	8	7	6	4

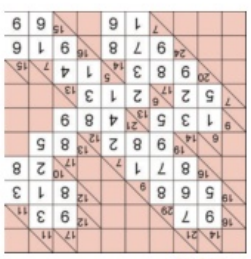
ALPHA TRIANGLE
0, Lo, Lao, loan, Along, Gallon, Gallieon.

LOOP



GO FIGURE
Easy
4 - 6 + 7 - 2 = 3
Medium
5 + 2 + 3 + 7 = 17
Hard
2 x 7 - 6 - 1 = 7

KAKURO



RIDDLER
Stop, in the name of love!

FAST FIVE

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